

In the Claims

1. (Previously Presented) A recombinant baculovirus comprising an expression vector for use in the production of immunoglobulins in an insect cell, said expression vector comprising:

a first expression cassette comprising a first sequence coding for at least one part of an immunoglobulin H chain, wherein said first sequence is under transcriptional control of a first baculovirus promoter,

a second expression cassette comprising a second sequence coding for at least one part of an immunoglobulin L chain, wherein said second sequence is under transcriptional control of a second baculovirus promoter; wherein

said first baculovirus promoter and said second baculovirus promoter are two different promoters and are located at two different loci.

2. (Previously Presented) The recombinant baculovirus in accordance with Claim 1, wherein one of said first and second baculovirus promoters is located at a site occupied in wild baculovirus by a polyhedrin promoter and said other baculovirus promoter of said first and second baculovirus promoters is located at a site occupied in the baculovirus by a p10 promoter.

3. (Previously Presented) The recombinant baculovirus in accordance with Claim 1 or 2, wherein said first and second baculovirus promoters are strong promoters, wherein said strong promoters are at least as strong as a polyhedrin promoter or a p10 promoter.

4. (Previously Presented) The recombinant baculovirus in accordance with Claim 3, wherein at least one of the first and second baculovirus promoters is selected from the group consisting of:

a p10 promoter;

a polyhedrin promoter; and

a synthetic promoter, defined as Syn promoter and comprising a double-stranded DNA fragment having one of the following sequences:

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5-                                     -3 (SEQ ID NO:1)
ATCAAATAAATAAGTATTTTAAAGAATTCGTACGTATTTGTATATTAATTTAAATACTATACTGTAAATAGATCG
TAGTTTATTTATTCATAAAATTTCTTAAGCATGCATAAAACATATAATTAATTTTATGATATGACATTTATCTAGCCTAG
3-                                     -5 (SEQ ID NO:2).
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5. (Previously Presented) The recombinant baculovirus in accordance with Claim 1 wherein each of said first and second expression cassettes comprises: (i) a strong baculovirus promoter at least as strong as a polyhedrin promoter or a p10 promoter and, under the control of said baculovirus promoter: (ii) a sequence coding for a signal peptide; (iii) a sequence coding for a variable immunoglobulin domain; and (iv) a sequence coding for a constant domain of an immunoglobulin H or L chain.

6. (Previously Presented) The recombinant baculovirus in accordance with Claim 5, wherein said sequence coding for a signal peptide of said first expression cassette is different from said sequence coding for a signal peptide of said second expression cassette.

7. (Previously Presented) The recombinant baculovirus in accordance with Claim 5, wherein at least one of the sequences coding for a signal peptide codes for a peptide that has an His-Val-Ser signal immediately upstream of a cleavage site used by a signal peptidase.

8. (Previously Presented) The recombinant baculovirus in accordance with Claim 5, wherein at least one of said sequences coding for a constant immunoglobulin domain is a sequence of human origin.

9. (Previously Presented) An insect cell infected by a recombinant baculovirus in accordance with Claim 1.

10. (Previously Presented) A method for preparing immunoglobulin comprising the steps of:

infecting at least one insect cell with a recombinant baculovirus, said recombinant baculovirus comprising an expression vector comprising 1) a first expression cassette comprising a first sequence coding for at least one part of an immunoglobulin H chain, wherein said first sequence is under transcriptional control of a first baculovirus promoter and 2) a second expression cassette comprising a second sequence coding for at least part of an immunoglobulin L chain, wherein said second sequence is under transcriptional control of a second baculovirus promoter, wherein said first baculovirus promoter and said second baculovirus promoter are two different promoters and are located at two different loci;

culturing at least one insect cell in a culture medium and
extracting said immunoglobulin from the culture medium.

11. Cancelled

12. (Previously Presented) A process for preparing a recombinant baculovirus in accordance with Claim 1 comprising the steps of:

preparing a first transfer plasmid comprising a sequence coding for at least one part of an immunoglobulin H chain, under transcriptional control of a first strong baculovirus promoter at least as strong as a polyhedrin promoter or p10 promoter;

preparing a second transfer plasmid comprising a sequence coding for at least one part of an immunoglobulin L chain, under transcriptional control of a second strong baculovirus promoter, at least as strong as a polyhedrin promoter or p10 promoter wherein said first and second promoters are two different promoters;

performing homologous recombination of the two plasmids with baculovirus DNA;
allowing replication of viral DNA in transfected cells;

selecting recombinant baculoviruses that have integrated the sequence coding for at least one part of the immunoglobulin H chain and the sequence coding for at least one part of the immunoglobulin L chain.

13. (Previously Presented) The process according to Claim 12, wherein each of said first and second transfer plasmids carries an insert comprising:

an expression cassette comprising a strong baculovirus promoter at least as strong as a polyhedrin promoter or a p10 promoter and, under the control of said promoter, a sequence coding for a signal peptide, a sequence coding for a variable immunoglobulin domain, and a sequence coding for a constant domain of an immunoglobulin H or L chain, said expression cassette flanked on each side by baculovirus sequences homologous with those of the regions flanking the portion of the viral genome being replaced by said expression cassette.

14. (Previously Presented) The process according to Claim 13, wherein said baculovirus sequences are homologous with sequences of the regions flanking the p10 gene or with sequences of the regions flanking the polyhedrin gene.

15. (Previously Presented) The process according to Claim 14, wherein said baculovirus DNA comprises DNA from a baculovirus having a Bsu36I site on each side of the sequence coding for the p10 protein, wherein said two Bsu36I sites are the only Bsu36I sites of said baculovirus DNA and wherein said baculovirus DNA is digested by the enzyme Bsu36I.